

from other places and contributed thereby to his election as Governor of Maryland.

*(Applause.)*

THE CHAIRMAN: For what purpose does Delegate Beatrice Miller rise?

DELEGATE B. MILLER: For a point of personal privilege.

THE CHAIRMAN: State your privilege.

DELEGATE B. MILLER: I am happy to announce that there are about 50 students from the Newport Junior High School from Montgomery County, who are visiting here with their teacher, Mrs. Gilligan, and Mrs. Kandel, a parent. Included in the class is my daughter, Judith.

I hope the Convention will join me in welcoming them.

*(Applause.)*

THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Kiefer.

DELEGATE KIEFER: I think it is of more than passing interest to note that today, December 15, marks the 177th anniversary of the adoption of the ten amendments to the federal Constitution by the State of Virginia on December 15, 1791, the first state that made this an effective part of the United States Constitution.

*(Applause.)*

THE CHAIRMAN: The Chair desires to make a statement for the record to correct an erroneous statement. In connection with Amendment No. 20, the Chair suggested yesterday afternoon the possibility that the Thirteenth Amendment might be effective to prevent imprisonment for debt. At my request, one of the research assistants attached to the staff of the Convention has looked into this since the Convention adjourned last evening, and advises me that this may be questionable except in the area of debts arising out of personal service contracts.

The Supreme Court of the United States has held that imprisonment for debt arising out of a contract for personal services is, in effect, an enforcement of involuntary servitude, and would be a violation of the Thirteenth Amendment of the United States. The Supreme Court of the United States has apparently not passed at all on the question of whether imprisonment for contract debts would be a violation of the Thirteenth Amendment, but the Supreme Courts of at least a few states upheld statutes providing for imprisonment of absconding debtors in contract cases, the

most recent apparently being a decision of the Supreme Court of Vermont in 1950.

This being the situation, I do not think the inference from the Chair's remarks yesterday that the Thirteenth Amendment might be an effective prohibition against imprisonment for debt should stand without this modification.

THE CHAIRMAN: We have several items to consider before taking up the Minority Report.

The Chair desires to ask a question about one of them. Delegate Macdonald, you have an amendment AO to section 7. Do you still intend to offer that amendment?

DELEGATE MACDONALD: Yes, Mr. Chairman, and might we add as co-sponsors, Delegates Case, Clagett, Kiefer—

THE CHAIRMAN: Before we announce those, we should have the amendment distributed.

Will the pages please distribute the amendment? This will be Amendment No. 22. The Clerk will read the amendment. Just a second. Delegate Macdonald, would you now indicate the names of the other sponsors?

DELEGATE MACDONALD: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Delegates Case, Clagett, Kiefer, Wagandt and Willoner.

Will you please correct your copy of the amendments. The Clerk will read the amendment.

READING CLERK: Amendment No. 22 to Committee Recommendation R&P-2 by Delegate Macdonald: On page 3, section 7, Right to Sue State and Local Governments, in line 9, after the period add this new sentence: "Any law enacted by the General Assembly pursuant to this section shall be a public general law."

THE CHAIRMAN: The amendment having been submitted by Delegate Macdonald and seconded by the co-sponsors, the Chair recognizes Delegate Macdonald.

The purpose of this amendment was the same as discussed yesterday. I believe the Committee of the Whole acceded with little or no debate to substantially the same change proposed by this amendment as amendment 10-a. While that amendment was rejected, I do not believe the amendment embodied in this amendment was.

I make that statement in the hope that the debate can be very limited.

DELEGATE MACDONALD: The sponsors of the amendment agree completely